ELECTRICAL WEST
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Midmonth Report to the Western Electrical Industry

February 15, 1961
Vol. 126, No. 2A

The finale to the Philadelphia Story came the week of Feb. 6 when **Federal Judge J. Cullen Ganey handed down fines totaling $1,787,000 for corporate defendants and $137,000 for individual defendants in the government antitrust cases.** Seven individuals were sentenced to 30 days in jail, while 23 others received suspended sentences of the same amount and were placed on probation for a period of five years.

Judge Ganey exacted the maximum $50,000 penalty only once, although the government had recommended this fine eight times. Against the corporate defendants the government had recommended total fines amounting to $2,565,000.

Of significant interest was the stand Judge Ganey took in the sentencing of Schwager-Wood. The judge suggested that they could at that time change their plea from guilty to nolo contendere, a position which had previously been denied them by the Justice Department.

The following table summarizes the corporate fines:

General Electric, 19 counts	$437,500	Southern States Equipment, 2 counts	$ 30,000
Westinghouse Electric, 19 counts	372,500	Moloney Electric, 3 counts	35,000
Allis-Chalmers, 8 counts	127,500	Wagner Electric, 3 counts	27,000
Federal Pacific Electric, 4 counts	65,000	Kuhlman Electric, 1 count	10,000
I-T-E Circuit Breaker, 9 counts	92,500	Schwager-Wood, 1 count	15,000
McGraw-Edison, 7 counts	95,000	Allen-Bradley, 1 count	40,000
Lapp Insulator, 2 counts	15,000	Clark Controller, 1 count	25,000
Ohio Brass, 4 counts	45,000	Cutler-Hammer, 2 counts	45,000
Porcelain Insulator, 1 count	7,500	Square D, 2 counts	75,000
Joslyn, 3 counts	25,000	Sangamo Electric, 2 counts	17,500
Hubbard, 2 counts	10,000	Cornell-Dubilier, 1 count	20,000
A. B. Chance, 2 counts	17,500	H. K. Porter, 4 counts	50,000

Five steam condenser manufacturers, 1 count....$87,500

Stockholders of **Southern Colorado Power** Co. will vote at a special election Feb. 28 **on the proposed merger with Central Electric & Gas** Co. (EWest, February, p 35). The combined companies would be named Western Power & Gas Co.

A bill exempting two Tacoma City Light dams from provisions of a new Washington state law barring dam construction on the Cowlitz River was approved by the Senate Public Utilities Committee at Olympia but may face rough going the rest of the way through the legislature, where a two-thirds majority in both branches is required for enactment.

Unless an amendment is secured to exempt the Tacoma dams, court action probably will be necessary for clarification. And, according to Governor Rosellini, who says he supported Initiative 25 on the basis it would not affect the Tacoma development (which had prior FPC authorization), no state agency will bring suit to determine its validity.

Also before the Washington legislature is a bill that **would require PUDs seeking to condemn utility property to hold a public vote within 120 days.** The ballot resolution would be required to state estimated cost and the method of financing the acquisition and to outline any comprehensive system and plan of which the condemnation could be a part. Representatives of Seattle and Tacoma have pointed out that the bill would give PUDs the right to condemn municipal properties, impossible under existing laws. Ken Billington, executive secretary of the Washington PUD Assn., contended the bill would put the business of PUDs into politics.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN PCEA
FOURTEENTH IN A SERIES

BULLETIN:

Program Set for Conference at Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, April 6th and 7th

By Harvey K. Breckenridge, Regional Manager, Ebasco Services, Inc., Chairman, Engineering and Operating Section, P.C.E.A.

For several months the Guidance Committee members of the Engineering and Operating Section have been focusing their interest and efforts on the program for the conference to be held at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, April 6 & 7.

Some of the subjects under consideration will be handled through the presentation of prepared papers, some as panel discussions, and some as round-table discussions. We have endeavored, however, to time the program so that, regardless of the type of presentation, there will be ample time for questions and discussion from the floor.

I would like to identify the Discussion Group Sponsors and commend them for their diligence in carrying out their assignments—Engineering Design (R. L. Mellers, Westinghouse Elec. Corp.); Hydro Generation (H. R. Daniels, P.G. & E.); Steam Generation (A. L. Guidero, Southern Calif. Edison Co.); Overhead T & D (R. E. Campbell, ALCOA); Underground T & D (H. J. Randolph, Randolph Engineering Corp.); Substation (R. G. Petersen, I-T-E Circuit Breaker Co.); Meter (D. K. Foulkes, General Electric Co.); System Operation (C. J. Nevitt, San Diego Gas & Elec. Co.); Communications (W. L. McCabe, Sierra Pacific Power Co.); Transportation (C. R. Stanley, P.G. & E.).

Arrangements for the luncheon speakers are in the hands of H. P. Hostetter, Elliott Co., and R. W. Spencer, Southern Calif. Edison Co. Registration will be handled by J. H. Goodell, Bechtel Corp.; Hotel Arrangements by R. A. Young, R. A. Young & Co.; and "Props" by C. B. Bennett, Fluor Corp.

No report would be complete without acknowledging the ever-available assistance of my capable Vice Chairman, H. S. "Skip" Warren, Rome Cable Div., ALCOA.

PACIFIC COAST ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION

Questions and suggestions on any PCEA activity are invited.

530 W. Sixth St., Los Angeles 14

681 Market St., San Francisco 5

At Cheyenne, the Wyoming House of Representatives has passed a bill **to exempt municipally owned utilities from regulation of the Wyoming Public Service Commission.** Rep. Ed Herschler (D) led the opposition, contending that the bill would take rate making "out of the field of fair return on investment." Rep. Walter Phelan (D) contended the principle of municipal autonomy was involved.

The Wyoming House also has passed a bill that **would enable a state PSC employee to conduct hearings on utility applications.** Under the present statute at least one of the three commissioners must conduct the hearing.

A bill **to set up a state electrical board to promulgate and enforce regulations for electrical construction** work was killed by the Wyoming House of Representatives, 21-24. The board would have been composed of five members—one licensed electrician, one licensed electrical contractor, the state fire marshal, one representative of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. It would have named a state electrical inspector.

In Oregon the legislature is considering a bill **aimed at preventing future duplication of electric facilities** by strengthening certificate of necessity provisions of the state utility code. Opposition has come mainly from public power agencies, not now regulated by the Public Utilities Commission.

House and senate bills proposing that the Salt River Project and similar agricultural improvement districts **pay taxes on power generating and distribution facilities** have been introduced into the Arizona legislature. The senate proposition would permit continued tax exemption of the Salt River Project's irrigation facilities and electrical generating equipment and transmission used to serve its own members. The house proposal would exempt only irrigation.

Grand jury probe of the Grant County PUD of Ephrata, Wash., was ended Jan. 27. **A 50-page report recommended tightening of state laws affecting public agencies with respect to contracts and record keeping.** It also asked legislation to ban public officials from accepting gifts and modification of the "attorney-client" privilege to permit lawyers to testify freely to grand juries concerning actions that may involve corruption. The investigation, which was started in August 1958, covered activities in connection with the building of Priest Rapids. Frank Bell, Ephrata businessman, was indicted on perjury charges and Merritt-Chapman & Scott Corp. pleaded no contest on bribery charges.

Southern California Edison Co. has been nominated for the Edison Award, with American Electric Power, Georgia Power and Pennsylvania Electric companies. The Edison nomination is "for its leadership in the development and promulgation of advanced management policies that have resulted in close integration of the management team and in expediting decisions on specific problems at all levels of supervision; and for an outstanding load development program that has resulted in achieving national leadership for the installation of Medallion homes."

The Western region meeting of the National Association of Lighting Maintenance Contrators will be held at the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco February 20 and 21. Those interested in attending should notify R. L. Merriam, T. L. Rosenberg Co., 317 Washington St., Oakland, California.

Puget Sound Chapter, NECA, has urged the Seattle City Council to direct City Light **to handle underground distribution construction under contract** rather than with its own crews.

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The utility is planning to spend some $300,000 in removing overhead facilities adjacent to the 1962 exposition site.

Cities may impose a sales tax on utility services, the Washington state legislature was assured Feb. 3 by Attorney General John J. O'Connell. The legal opinion was requested by Daniel J. Evans of Seattle, Republican floor leader in the House, to guide the legislature in helping cities find additional sources of tax revenue. A sales tax could apply only to the basic utility charge, not to any surcharge based on quality of service over the basic charge, O'Connell ruled.

California Governor Edmund G. Brown in his budget message committed his administration to **proceeding as quickly as possible with the high level Oroville Dam and power plant** without delayed staging as recommended by consulting engineers. Governor Brown's "water" budget submitted to the state legislature totals $58 million, of which nearly $35 million are earmarked for construction and site acquisition during the fiscal year beginning July 1. About half is budgeted for work in the Oroville area, including construction of the diversion tunnel. Construction of the dam itself is due to begin in late 1962 or early 1963. Power plant capacity will be 600,000 kw.

Charles F. Luce, Walla Walla attorney, has been appointed Bonneville Power administrator succeeding Dr. William A. Pearl. He served in 1944 and 1946 on the legal staff of BPA and for a short period in 1949 as legal consultant to the Secretary of the Interior. Interviewed at Walla Walla, he said he plans two major changes in policy: he will seek electric power from the new convertible production reactor at AEC's Hanford Works for the BPA system; will put BPA in the forefront of efforts to attract new industries to the Northwest. He stated that he believes the proposed CVA is a "dead issue."

An interesting development in the luminous ceiling situation has been the entrance by electrical contractors into the business of contracting for entire ceilings, acoustical and luminous. This trend was started when Schwartz & Lindheim organized United Lighting & Ceiling as a separate company. The latter has become a manufacturer only, selling through distributors. Schwartz & Lindheim, however, is back in the ceiling business with its United Acoustics. Coopman Electric Co., San Francisco, has a subsidiary, American Lighting. Charles Farrel Co. has Engineered Ceilings. Celcon is the company which Cupertino Electric has organized. Meanwhile Pinney Co. has gone the other direction and entered the electrical contracting business.

Electrical Maintenance Engineers Assn. of Northern California has taken in all the officers and members of the Contra Costa Branch of EMEA of California headquartered in Los Angeles as the result of negotiations that have been going on between the two organizations to unify them. The boards of directors of the two organizations met and decided that a northern California organization was more to their liking. At a meeting scheduled for Feb. 23 at Walnut Creek the affiliation will be completed and members of the Contra Costa group will be admitted without further dues until the next annual dues collection. Floyd McNeil, chairman of the Contra Costa group, will be on the board of directors, Jack Singleton, president of the organization, has announced.

E. M. Rudy, an electrical contractor for eight years in the Santa Clara and San Mateo area, has joined the staff of San Mateo County Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Assn., as assistant manager to Robert Coleman. He will devote much of his energy to sales promotion programs of the chapter.

A $25 wiring allowance for any service change has been given to dealers in the Santa Clara-San Benito Counties area under a plan by the electrical construction industry of those counties through its Industry Fund. The cooperative advertising program has been offered the Appliance Dealers Assn., tying in with Dryer Month of Pacific Gas and Electric Co. Dealers who agree to use and recommend only local union electrical contractors for necessary service changes and electrical work were issued certificates worth $25 to be given to their customers purchasing an electrical appliance that required such a service change. H. T. Gunderson, coordinator for the industry group, declared that in the short period of two months over 60

such jobs were completed and it served a two-fold purpose of increasing work volume during a slack season and of getting this phase of work for qualified electrical contractors.

Jack Hacker has taken over the responsibilities of Al J. McCutcheon as coordinator for the Electrical Contractors Division of the San Diego Bureau of Home Appliances. Hacker has done much work in connection with the contractors division. He is on loan from San Diego Gas & Electric Co. to the bureau to head up this activity. McCutcheon has been promoted to director of lighting sales for the utility. The Electrical Contractors Division of the bureau plans a special indoor and outdoor lighting display at the annual Spring Fair, opening April 28 in Balboa Park. About a half acre of the Balboa Park grounds will be devoted to displays of techniques for floodlighting of trees and gardens just outside the exposition building.

An institute for estimators is proposed by George Harter, manager of the Santa Clara-San Benito Chapter, NECA. In addressing several groups in the industry, Harter has mentioned the dependence of contractors upon estimators to run a major part of their business and that many are not qualified and, although they go from one to another, they bring financial disaster to those for whom they work. Some sort of a qualifying and grading institute should be set up by the industry, he advocates.

California Department of Public Works **has raised the ante for prequalification of all contractors to bid on construction projects,** both for highways and building projects supervised by the State Division of Architecture. Whereas the previous prequalifications were required on projects estimated to cost more than $5,000, the limit was boosted to $50,000.

Program details for **the annual tri-district meeting** of Districts 6, 8 and 9, National Electrical Contractors Assn., **at Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, April 26-29,** are not firmed to the point of announcement but the meeting is being planned now by the three vice presidents and Fred Wider, San Francisco general chairman. First announcement of the meeting has gone in the mail to NECA members in the States of Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, California, Nevada and Hawaii. Some 400 are expected to attend. The three vice presidents, Howard Bailey, Seattle, District 6, Charles Berrell, Salt Lake City, District 8, and Norman Ferguson, San Diego, District 9, will take turns presiding over the various section meetings. The first day, Wednesday, will be devoted to separate district meetings as will Thursday morning. After an opening luncheon, the three districts will meet jointly to discuss various national affairs in a familiar pattern until Saturday noon. Emil Weber, president, San Francisco Chapter, has invited the entire group to the annual San Francisco Chapter dinner and installation of officers April 29.

The simplified wiring tables proposed as a compromise at the hearings on the revision of California's Electrical Safety Orders seem to be meeting with favorable response. The table would be a substitute for Table 1—Maximum Allowable Current-Carrying Capacity of Conductors in Amperes in Sizes from No. 14 to 1,000 Mcm. There are two simple columns, one for noncontinuous duty, the other continuous. Continuous loads are those where it is expected that total connected load will continue for periods of at least four hours in a 24-hour period. Lighting and heating loads are so considered, where motor loads are not considered as continuous. The compromise table was worked out in conference by a committee consisting of Norwood Kenney, Simplex Wire; Lou Seldon, Rome Wire & Cable; A. B. Smedley, consulting engineer for the Wire & Cable Users Committee; Fay Frey, municipal utilities; Kent Glenn, private utilities; Sidney Hill, contractors; Arthur Veit, electrical inspectors; and E. E. Carlton, California State.

British Columbia electrical industry **celebrated National Electrical Week with an Electrical Trade Show** in the Garden Auditorium of the Pacific National Exposition, Vancouver, Feb. 9-11. It was sponsored by the Electrical Service League of B. C. Some 75 major manufacturers and distributors in western Canada participated.

Why contractors lose money was investigated by a research team employed by the Los Angeles Electrical Bid Depository. It came up with some 60 pages of conclusions and recommendations. William B. Logan & Associates conducted the research with a confidential ques-

tionnaire as well as personal interviews. Some 23 rules were given at the conclusion for putting profit back into the subcontracting business.

From the Desk of Frank M. Warren, President
Northwest Electric Light & Power Assn.

Conference time will be upon us shortly, and each conference chairman seems determined that his meeting shall be the best ever. The schedule of NELPA's meetings are as follows: **Engineering & Operation Section, joint with Personnel & Safety Section and Purchasing Committee,** April 26-28, Sheraton-Portland Hotel, Portland, Ore.; **Accounting & Business Practice Section,** May 24-26, Rogue Valley Country Club, Medford, Ore.; **Annual Meeting,** Sept. 20-22, Sheraton-Portland Hotel, Portland; **Business Development Section, joint with Rate Research Committee and Public Relations & Advertising Committee,** Oct. 16-18, Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Wash.

Waldo Enns, Portland General Electric, chairman, and Ralph Radford, Utah Power, vice chairman of the Engineering & Operation Section, have been working industriously with their committee chairmen to put together a top-notch program for the E&O conference. The program, which will boast of speakers from top manufacturers' representatives to college presidents, is now being finalized. A full-blown program announcement, including reservation and registration forms, will be mailed to all NELPA members about six weeks prior to the meeting. Joe Williams, PGE, general chairman of arrangements, and his committee have and will continue to spend countless hours to make sure that delegates and wives attending the meeting will be provided with cordial hospitality indicative of the City of Roses. Management of the new Sheraton-Portland Hotel is going all out to provide the best possible accommodations for our people.

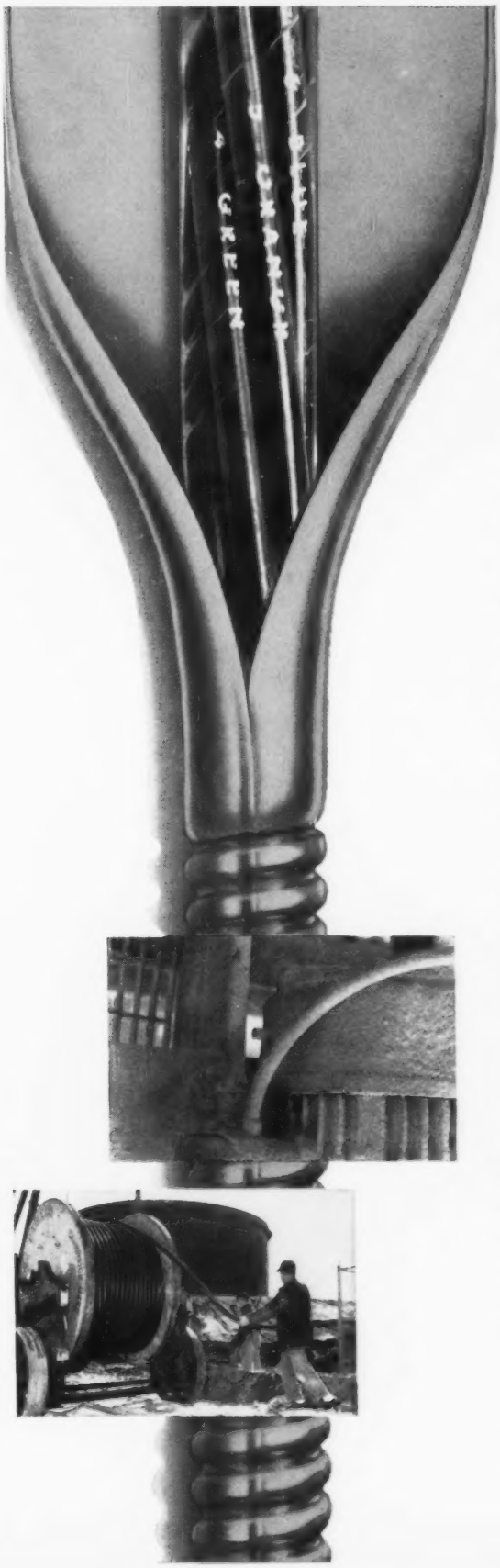
Bob Sessions, Idaho Power Co., chairman of the Personnel & Safety Section, is well under way in developing a program of great importance to all who are interested in problems of personnel and industrial relations. **Emmett Kelly, Puget Power,** as vice chairman of this section, **has responsibility of developing the program for the safety section.** Kelly says the superb safety program that is being developed for the meeting is no accident. The Personnel & Safety Section meet jointly with the E&O Section and the Purchasing Committee in Portland, April 26-28.

NELPA's Purchasing and Stores Committee has built a record for informative and interesting programs (sometimes highly controversial) during the past few years. **This year's chairman, A. H. "Holly" Skillin, PGE,** plans to see that the reputation of his committee is continued and further enhanced, and is not buying second-grade speakers. Neither purchasing agents nor suppliers dare stay away from this meeting.

"Knowledge and Fun in '61" will be the theme of the **Accounting & Business Practice Conference** in Medford, May 24-26, according to **Bill Prentice, Copco, section chairman** and general chairman of arrangements. Emphasis will be placed on "knowledge" through the comprehensive program developing under Prentice's leadership. Panel discussion on pertinent points of operation will be presented, which will bring in audience participation. Prentice's committee on arrangements maintains the "fun" aspect is being arranged in balanced proportion to make the conference an unforgettable one from both standpoints of knowledge and fun.

For the first time, this year NELPA's **Business Development Conference will be held in the fall rather than in the spring.** The October meeting will allow discussion on sales programs of the various companies at a time when plans are being developed by each company for its coming year's promotional program. This will provide better program correlation and an opportunity for better cooperation between utilities and distributors. **Darcie White, Utah Power, is chairman** of the Business Development Section and is supported by **Leo Chaffin, PGE, as vice chairman.**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate ELECTRICAL WEST on the initial article of the "This Is America" series, which appeared in the January issue. Member companies in NELPA plan to make wide distribution of this series through company publications and other means. We look forward to future articles of the series.



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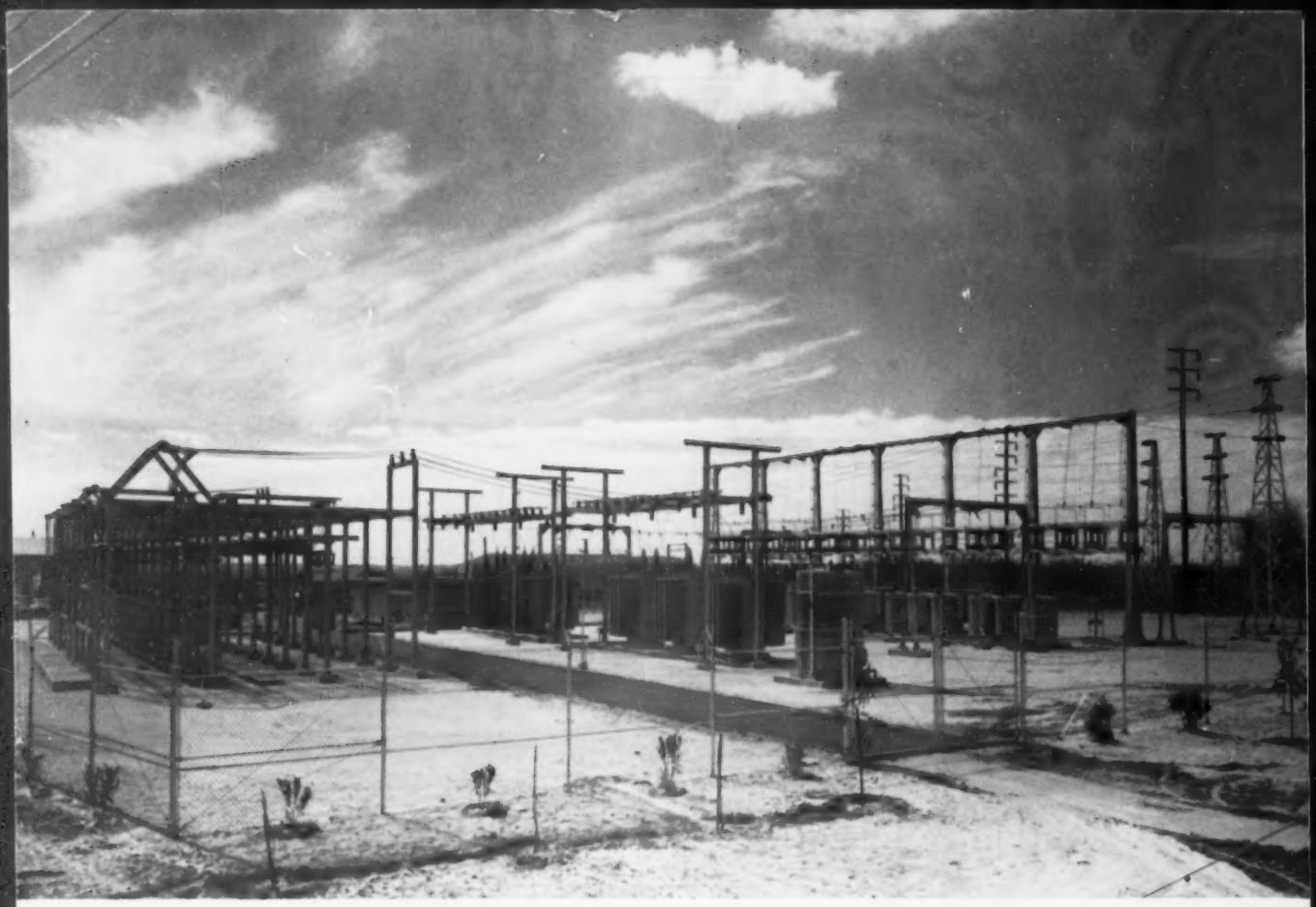

Southern California Edison Company's all-aluminum Talbert substation

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True to a pioneering tradition, Southern California Edison Company recently completed its first experimental, all-aluminum distribution substation near Santa Ana, California. Among the significant findings: Installation costs were competitive with the cost of similar steel structures; the new substation is operating as satisfactorily as similar steel structures.

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